

U.A.P.

Quarterly Report *October-December 1998*

Development Associates, Inc.
Contract No. 532-C-00-96-00234-00

**UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT
QUARTERLY REPORT
October 1 - December 31, 1998**

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***Uplifting Adolescents Project
Jamaica
Quarterly Progress Report
October - December 1998***

BACKGROUND

In June 1996, Development Associates, Inc. was awarded a contract with a level of effort of 194 person months of long and short term technical assistance to strengthen local NGOs to deliver a multi-modal package of services to adolescents between the ages of 10-18 years to improve their social skills to become more productive and responsible citizens, and to strengthen the Youth Unit of the Ministry of Education.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The three major outputs as detailed in Section C, Work Statement of the contract articulate:

1. **Strengthening the NGOs:** The first step in implementing this project is to provide technical assistance and training to the NGOs to enable them: (a) to improve their managerial capabilities; (b) to improve or expand their program capabilities to deliver either the minimum or recommended package of services to adolescents; and (c) to apply to the contractor for grants to provide services to adolescents.
2. **Programs for Adolescents Designed & Delivered:** The heart of the project is the delivery of multi-modal packages of services to approximately 11,000 at-risk adolescents. The NGOs accepted for the project can deliver these packages of services with funding from sub-grants with the contractor. About 14,000 youth years of services (minimum and recommended) are to be provided to about 9,300 at-risk adolescents (since some adolescents receive more than one year of services, their number is less than the number of youth years). For special populations (pregnant girls, learning disabilities, etc.) who require specialized services, about 2,500 youth years of services are to be provided to about 1,700 adolescents.
3. **MEYC Youth Unit Strengthened:** The Youth Unit in the Ministry of Education, Youth & Culture is to play an important part in the implementation of this project and be a central point on behalf of the government for continuing these activities after the project ends. As a newly formed office within the ministry, it needs some inputs to become strong enough to fulfill its role.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The planned activities for the report period covering July - December 1998 include:

1. Continue the Sub-Grant award and management process with those qualified non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which can deliver services to the adolescent population, by coordinating the award of sub-grants, and ensuring their effective start-up. This will include the solicitations for Operations Research proposals, and multi-year funding for ongoing sub-grantees, convening of the Awards Committee and the signing of USAID-approved sub-grant agreements and amendments by Development Associates.
2. Conduct a training program by delivering classes and workshops to targeted NGOs offering them the opportunity to participate in courses delivered by the UAP in key areas such as skills training for

instructors, training of tracer study interviewers, literacy and remedial education/numeracy, assessment of results of tracer studies, and revision of training plan for Project Year 3.

3. Contribute to the strengthening of the Youth Unit, Ministry of Local Government, through commodity procurement; identifying the needs for training and technical assistance, and coordinating participant training requirements. Initiate the procurement of those commodities required by the Youth Unit.
4. Establish procedures for effective management of the UAP contract funds, and demonstrate smooth implementation of these procedures. Implementation of effective cost control procedures including financial reviews of sub-grantee accounts, follow-up on recommendations of the rapid appraisal review to implement results, and installation of a database to track beneficiary performance.
5. Monitoring the implementation of Operations Research projects. Complete the process to train NGOs in tracer study techniques and prepare NGOs to conduct tracer studies of 150 program graduates in preparation for the mid-term project evaluation.

PERFORMANCE

Sub-Grant Award & Management

The main activities under this performance criterion were the sub-grant agreements and execution of amendments, the submission and review of one Operations Research proposal and the general management of sub-grant implementation.

Execution of Amendments to Sub-Grant Agreements

Copies of executed Amendments No 2 to the Batch II Sub-Grant Agreements were forwarded to the COTR for USAID official records. This amendment incrementally obligated funds for six Batch II NGOs to continue activities for year two implementation.

Amendments No 3 for five Batch I Sub-Grant Agreements were prepared and executed to fully obligate funds for year two continuation of these NGO activities.

After meeting the benchmarks of USAID, the KRC's sub-grant agreement was amended to obligate funds for year 2 continuation of program activities. The draft of this amendment was prepared and sent to USAID/Jamaica for approval on October 9. The final approval was to come from the RCO/Haiti. By the end of the month approval had still not been received. This new process of sending documents to the USAID/Jamaica contracts office is proving to be time consuming.

The final approval for the KRC's sub-grant agreement to obligate funds for year 2 continuation of program activities was signed both by USAID/Jamaica and the RCO/Haiti on October 26th. The written approval reached Development Associates/Jamaica on November 5, 1998.

Implementation letters were issued to four Batch II sub-grantees to correct budget inaccuracies which existed in their Grant Amendment No. 2.

Management of UAP Sub-Grants

Site Visits: Site visits were made to the Jamaica Red Cross, sites in Yallah and Clarendon; the Womens Center and FamPlan in St Ann's Bay; Sam Sharpe Teacher's College in Montego Bay; Ashe, St. Patrick's Foundation, KRC, the Women's Center, YMCA, YWCA, and Mel Nathan in Kingston. Additional site visits to WSUC, Sam Sharpe in Montego Bay and Women's Center in Mandeville were canceled due to heavy storms and rain. In general, site visits are made to all NGO programs at least once during each quarter.

Management Assistance: UAP staff continued to work directly with the NGOs regarding upgrading the information for quarterly reports and by installing spreadsheets at each NGO in support of the report format. All UAP-funded NGOs now have the simplified formats on their computers.

As a continued follow-up to implementation of USAID grants, the UAP is in the process of revising the NGO Sub-Grants Management Manual. NGO liquidation reports are reviewed monthly and assistance and guidance is offered when needed.

Technical assistance is offered by the UAP MIS Administrator to NGOs upon request which occurs on a fairly frequent basis as noted below in the following section on the PTS.

Contacts were made with FAVA/CA which has the potential to offer specialized technical short-term assistance to NGOs on an as needed basis. This activity is further discussed below under the Training section of the report.

Performance Tracking System: Prior to his departure in October, Mr. Allan Kellum debriefed UAP staff on his work accomplished in the field with visits to all NGOs. He further left detailed instructions to the new MIS Administrator, Mr. Craig Campbell. During the month of October, onsite technical assistance visits continued to obtain records for data entry which was carried out at the UAP by two National Youth Service graduates. This system has been a great help to the NGOs and to the functioning of the PTS database. One of the major problems being encountered is that evaluation data on students is kept in schools which are hesitant to allow outsiders to handle official records. The UAP searched and continues to search for ways to obtain this data from the teachers or other service providers who can accomplish the work after school hours.

Based on a USAID need for baseline data for literacy stated in the SARs review, the UAP exerted special effort to increase the data gathering process of all NGOs. Site visits and meetings were held with most of the NGOs to ascertain the level of data being input to the PTS, where the bottlenecks were, and assistance which the UAP could offer. The two data entry clerks worked at KRC to assist with bring their system up to date and remained until some of the backlog was completed. St. Patrick's Foundation has found a PTS coordinator and is in the process of formulating a strategy to complete their PTS with some possible assistance from the UAP. WSUC has a NYSP graduate who operates as their PTS coordinator and will be financed by the UAP for a two month period.

Of the 11,830 registered NGO beneficiaries, a total of 5,064 have been entered into the PTS. However, a major effort is required for evaluation data regarding literacy, skills training and personal/family

development to be entered into the system by each NGO. Until all NGO systems are up and running, aggregate data especially on literacy rates will need to be collected and reported quarterly to the UAP. This data will give us the baseline on literacy for our beneficiary population as opposed to the general Jamaican population.

In summary, all 15 sub-grantees have the PTS installed with the potential to adequately function in their offices. Demographic data at approximately a 43% level is being collected from all NGOs which in effect have the capability to report to the UAP. As noted above, the collection of raw evaluation data and data entry of the same is presenting a major problem for all NGO grantees. In theory the PTS works perfectly and is programmed to the needs of the NGO and the UAP. However, due to limited NGO resources and staff, the system has encountered delays in implementation.

Financial Assessments: The checklist for financial assessments was revised to include the review and testing of project expenditures. In the past we assured that accounting systems were adequately in place and being used. During that process we found that some expenses could be questionable and these needed to be compared with grant agreement budgets. We shall ensure that all expenses are reasonable and allocable within the terms of the sub-grant agreements.

Financial reviews were conducted on eight NGOs during November. The six NGOs from Batch I and two NGOs from Batch III were reviewed. Initial findings were discussed with each organization during the reviews and issues which could be resolved onsite were so done. Written reports will be prepared and submitted to each NGO by mid January.

Training Program

Training activities during the period were as follows:

The October workshop on Communications and NGO Image Building scheduled for two days on October 6 - 7 was canceled due to the heavy demands being placed on NGOs to complete tracer study data gathering, program implementation, report preparation, and training assessment activities. The NGOs have been complaining about the pressures being placed on them by the UAP so it was decided to postpone this training activity.

Skills Training for At-Risk Youth in the 10-14 Age Group: The Uplifting Adolescents Project (UAP), in collaboration with HEART/NTA, conducted a two-day Workshop on November 3 & 4, 1998, for representatives of UAP-supported NGOs which provide skills training to 'at-risk' youth in the 10-14 age group.

Mr. Lloyd Stanley was the Instructor/Presenter for the Workshop sessions, which were held at two HEART/NTA training centers in Kingston. The first day's training took place at the Rockfort Vocational Training Center, and the second day's sessions were held at the Learning for Earning Activity Programme (L.E.A.P.) Center. Nineteen (19) participants from 8 NGOs attended on both days.

The rationale for the workshop was the need to assist instructors to become knowledgeable about the variables that affect learning among the target age group, and to develop the skill of selecting and applying appropriate methodologies/techniques to encourage learning. Consequently, the workshop's objectives were defined as follows:-

At the end of the Workshop, the participants should be able to:

1. identify factors that are important to the learning process;
2. improve their method of instruction;
3. apply principles of effective discipline and classroom management; and
4. apply safety procedures.

A report was prepared as a permanent record of the workshop's proceedings. All NGO managers have been asked to ensure that access to its content be made freely available to their permanent and volunteer instructors. In particular, the information given on important factors in the learning process, preparing an instructional plan, and classroom management should be useful to instructors of any subject area.

Literacy/Numeracy Part III:

The UAP, in collaboration with JAMAL, conducted a two-day workshop, "Literacy & Remedial Education, Part III - Numeracy" on December 9-10, 1998. Twenty nine (29) participants representing 15 NGOs and the Youth Division were present at the workshop. The main Presenter was Mrs. Jean Chang, Teacher-Trainer attached to JAMAL. Other presenters included Mr. Seymour Riley, Director of Field Operations and Mrs Annettee Prince-Carey, Technical Supervisor also of JAMAL.

The aim of the workshop was to encourage NGO Teachers/Instructors to make learning numeracy more interesting and effective when teaching Literacy & Remedial Education to at-risk adolescents, aged 10- to 14.

The workshop objectives were defined as follows:

1. To assist Teachers/Instructors to standardize assessment of numeracy levels in teaching literacy.
2. To upgrade the pedagogical skills of Teachers/Instructors of numeracy; and
3. To reinforce guidelines for teaching numeracy as an integral part of functional literacy and life coping skills.

The workshop focused on improving the skills to teach numeracy at Grades I to IV. Participants were introduced to and presented with the latest editions of the teachers and students manuals in numeracy for these grades by the UAP, and were afforded very valuable teaching practice in a variety of contrived situations. Guided by the expert presenters from JAMAL, participants were able to evaluate and learn from each other's accomplishments and mistakes in the various situations.

To continue the networking support being offered by the UAP to NGO grantees, and as an adjunct to the workshop, special invitees, Mr. Dave Schmeling and Miss Aileen Sanchez from FAVA/CA made a presentation explaining how NGOs can access specialized technical assistance gratis to assist with the

facilitation of volunteer training in Jamaica and other Caribbean countries. Ten NGO representatives met with FAVA/CA in groups and individually to express their interest in continued collaboration in the future. FAVA/CA expressed its appreciation for the collaboration, and expects significant results from these contacts.

Strengthening the Youth Unit, MEYC

The UAP offered the following assistance to the Youth Division:

In October, emphasis was placed on follow-up with suppliers of the computers and other office equipment which were being procured for the Youth Division. Since there were several dealers involved in the procurement of diverse equipment, we were cautious to ensure that specifications were met and deliveries accomplished. The UAP made several visits to the Youth Division to file commodity receiving reports onsite as equipment was delivered. In the case of computers, the UAP MIS Administrator opened one of the CPUs to assure that all specifications were met by the supplier.

Even with constant monitoring of the process, some suppliers made partial deliveries and back orders needed to be fully completed. Two suppliers failed to make their delivery in a timely fashion and were replaced by other suppliers with competitive prices for similar equipment. In both cases, prior to making a final decision, the UAP consulted with the Director of the Youth Division.

On November 10, a turning-over ceremony of the computers and office equipment was held at the Ministry of Local Government. Dr. Alex Dickie, Acting Mission Director, represented USAID while Minister Colin Campbell accepted the donation on the part of the GOJ. Also present at the ceremony were Gloria Nelson and Youth Division staff, Danny Gordon, USAID, and UAP staff. TV and news coverage was extensive with the Communications Consultant directing the activities. A tape of the event from TVJ, a local television station, was procured and sent to USAID.

Request for Technical Support: With regards to the technical assistance request, the Youth Division expressed its need for a Social Policy Analyst. Since the UAP could not unilaterally make such a decision, the request was made to DA/Arlington for the UAP to hire a person under a Special Employee Contract, paid from the contract, and based in the offices of the Youth Division. USAID's prior approval to incur the cost would also be required.

The UAP consulted with its corporate office in Arlington to move forward with the process to contract a Social Policy Analyst for the Youth Unit. After a detailed budget analysis, Development Associates agreed to move forward with the proposal to USAID specifying two conditions. The first, that the Youth Division assume logistical responsibility for the position including office space, equipment and transportation. The second that after one year, the GOJ assume full responsibility for the permanent position within the Youth Division. Both conditions were presented to the Youth Division Director who agreed in principle. The UAP designed a scope of work for the position and cleared it with the Ministry. An action memorandum was submitted and approved by USAID which included a scope of work and conditions of employment. The UAP advised the Youth Division Director of the decision and the conditions required by USAID. A draft Memorandum of Understanding was sent to the Youth Director

for appropriate processing within the Ministry. Simultaneously, an advertisement was placed in the local newspaper to initiate the search for the best qualified candidate. Due to the upcoming Christmas holidays, it was decided to request resumes from candidates until the end of December. In January, a panel will be formed to interview candidates and make the final selection.

Training & Technical Assistance: The staff of the Youth Division have put into practice the computer training received through the UAP. It is interesting to note that a year ago this same staff did not have access to computers. Today, they are using word processors, are hooked-up to the internet and discussing ways of initiating a database for their programs.

The UAP staff met with Director, National Youth Service Program, Ms Candis Hamilton. Also present at the meeting was Ms Gloria Nelson, Youth Division Director. There has been greater coordination between the NYSP and the UAP with the new Director since she continues to look for unique ways of advancing her program. The UAP already has had several good contacts with her. She expressed interest in the PTS and visited the UAP. The UAP has sent Ms Hamilton copies of the Tracer Study questionnaire since the NYSP has contracted a consultant to design intake forms and to initiate tracer studies on recent graduates. It should be noted that Ms Hamilton has been incorporated into the membership of the Joint Coordinating Committee by the Chairperson. The UAP nominated her as a candidate for a USAID-sponsored Participant Training program but for reasons of schedule, she was unable to attend.

Again, the UAP had to establish that the spreadsheets to record and report GOJ counterpart expenditures were properly installed on Youth Division computers. This time separate spreadsheets were created to report expenses for the years 1996-97, 1997-98, and 1998-99. The Youth Division Accountant promised to collect the additional information for the last two years, and to input these to the spreadsheets.

Joint Coordinating Committee: A Joint Coordinating Committee meeting was held on October 21 with good attendance. Mrs. Audrey Budhi, Director Child Support Unit, made her first appearance and significantly contributed to the agenda. Major progress of UAP activities was discussed including the results of the rapid appraisal on the effectiveness criteria. Interestingly, there were some members who were unaware of, or had forgotten what the criteria contained. The UAP subsequently made available copies of the report to those members who had not previously received it. In order to bring Mrs. Budhi up to date on UAP activities, she received a copy of the UAP Orientation Booklet.

Final arrangements were made for the December field trip to NGO program sites for members of the Joint Coordinating Committee. This was the second year of tradition for members taking an observational tour of UAP activities. Since the Committee visited the North coast last December, it was decided to tour the East coast section of the island this time. All Committee members, except one, Beverly Lawrence, MOE, made the trip in December. A trip report was promised by Ms Vinnette McKay, PIOJ, which is expected to be available in early 1999. There was however, a follow-up debriefing meeting convened by USAID to discuss possible strategies to improve program implementation.

Contract Administration

The activities under this section during the quarter covered collaboration with USAID, Sub-Contract Administration, and Home Office Management.

Collaboration with USAID

At the request of USAID, UAP staff conducted the following activities:

- Arranged and conducted a one day field trip for the Mission Director to visit NGO programs in Spanish Town and St. Ann's Bay.
- Arranged and made a courtesy call with the Mission Director to the Women's Center in Kingston.
- Arranged for a project site visit for Sheila Lutjens, USAID's SO 3 Team Leader.
- Gathered and prepared data for COTR as input to the Mission's SAR process.
- Participated at the USAID review of the UAP as part of the SAR process.

Participation in the Semi-Annual Review (SAR) of the UAP convened by USAID on November 16, 1998 was a major event. Present at the review were Mission staff including the Mission and Deputy Directors, COTR, SO Team Leader, representatives from Program and Controllers office, Training Officer and Program Assistants; Development Associates key staff; representatives of the Youth Division; a Juarez & Associates representative and MOE representative. With regards to the UAP review, there was one general issue of identifying the linkages between the UAP (10-14 age group), New Horizon Project (6-12 age group), and Adolescent Reproductive Health (10-19 age group) and reducing the number of proposed indicators. It was suggested that Intermediary Results (IR) for the School Drop-out and the Literacy rates be combined, monitored, and reported on separately until UAP ends in 12/00.

Questions, mostly by the Mission Director, arose during the review process which were of great interest to Development Associates and included a fund for food/bus fare for NGO beneficiaries; proposal presentations to USDA from NGOs to cover such costs; monitoring of the quality of services being offered by NGOs; a management review of the UAP in lieu of a mid-term evaluation; collection of baseline data for stated indicators; the lack of statistics on the school drop-out rate; and an add-on program after UAP terminates. Ms Jordan showed great interest in the problems of at-risk youth, the limitations of UAP resources, the lack of current baseline data, and the GOJ's failure in the formal education system. She had given every indication that other resources would be searched for to augment the UAP. The key staff fielded many questions and the general tone of the review was most complimentary to the Youth Division, NGOs and Development Associates for contract implementation.

Sub-Contract Administration

In keeping with the sub-contract, HCDC participated in the monitoring of field activities of PSEARCH, reviewed, commented on the preliminary report, and managed the terms, conditions and payment of the consultant's agreement. The Executive Director of HCDC also participated in the full-day workshop on dissemination of the report findings. In a like manner, HCDC administered the implementation of the tracer study obligations with consultant, Pansy Hamilton. HCDC also participated in the search to find a replacement for the MIS position, interviewed and contracted a person under their sub-contract.

The sub-contractor has been most helpful in arranging for short term, part time support staff when required on very short notice. This type of assistance has been cost effective saving the contract money on otherwise full time staff positions.

Operations Research Grants

There were possibilities that the Kingston YMCA and PSEARCH/St. Patrick's Foundation might submit proposals. USAID was also approached by the Mustard Seed Communities and PALS for funding and operations research was being envisioned as a possible source. Interestingly, Mustard Seed Communities had previously received ample information from the UAP but never submitted a proposal.

Two meetings were held with Mustard Seed Communities to discuss their potential operations research proposal. A draft proposal was submitted and reviewed by UAP staff with comments being related back to Mustard Seed staff. A third follow-up meeting was held with this NGO again on December 14 with the hope of receiving a finalized proposal. The UAP is still awaited a final proposal from this NGO.

Towards the end of November, a draft proposal was received from the Kingston YMCA to conduct research on street children in the YMCA program, and to study school drop-out rates and reasons in two local schools which feed into the YMCA/UAP program. The draft received a UAP internal review and a meeting convened with the YMCA and its Consultant, Errol Miller, in early December. The final revised proposal was received and sent to USAID and the Youth Division for a "desk review" on December 17, 1998. A decision on this proposal is expected in early 1999.

To date, four Operations Research proposals have been funded; ASHE, LAR&D, the Women's Center of Jamaica Foundation and Hope Enterprises/FamPlan with one from the YMCA in the pipeline.

Tracer Studies: A Tracer Study Plan was designed and sent to the ten NGOs which demonstrated interest in participating. A standard fee was set so that each completed questionnaire submitted to the UAP would be reimbursed at a set rate. A timetable was developed to accommodate the training of NGO staff interviewers, collection of data, supervisory visits and quality control, data entry and report preparation. The plan was vetted in DA/Arlington with minor changes being suggested. A scope of work was then designed and sent to USAID for approval of the identified consultant. The plan and scope of work was approved by USAID. Training of interviewers was conducted in late September. The plan had to be postponed by two weeks because local government elections were called for September 10. This event had an effect on other UAP training activities.

The tested questionnaire had been reviewed by DA/Arlington and was printed in the US and shipped to Jamaica prior to the workshop. The UAP had programmed the studies to be completed by October 16 with a final report to USAID by early November. In late September, the printed questionnaires arrived in Kingston from Arlington but were held up in the local customs office. After several days of negotiating, the forms were released to the UAP without payment of taxes. In October, ten NGOs conducted tracer study interviews after receiving training under the UAP. The consultant, Pansy Hamilton, visited each NGO while interviews were underway to verify quality assurance. She had to make multiple trips to different sites since NGOs are located throughout the country. There appeared to be no major obstacles

and by the end of October a total of 202 completed questionnaires were submitted to the UAP. Data entry was performed in early November. Each NGO was be given a printout of results so that individual reports can be prepared and submitted to the UAP.

All completed questionnaires, printouts, and data on SPSS discs were forwarded to Development Associates/Arlington where the final analytical work was conducted and the official tracer study report prepared for USAID. The report was received by the UAP on December 15, 1998. Copies were made and sent to USAID, the Youth Unit and to 15 Sub-grantees on December 16, 1998.

Donor Coordination & Other Activities

UAP staff participated in the following activities and events:

- UAP staff attended the 20th Anniversary luncheon and Awards Ceremony for the Women's Center of Jamaica.
- Arranged with Reggae Boyz Football Coach, Rene Simoes, to give a motivational talk to 180 street boys in the UAP/YMCA program.
- At the suggestion of ARD, attended a lunch meeting with other USAID contractors including Juarez & Associates.
- Finalized and scheduled meetings between sub-grantees and FAVA/CA staff to obtain onsite technical assistance to NGOs gratis.
- Made a presentation to a UWI Research group regarding Operations Research in the UAP.
- Attended the opening session of the GOJ/UNICEF annual Program Review.
- Participated in the St. Patrick's Foundation graduation ceremony for students which included some UAP beneficiaries.

SECTION B. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Contract Expenditure

The table below shows contract expenditure data, including Disbursements to Sub-Grantees, by the UAP up to December 31, 1998. A total of approximately US\$3.53 million has been expended to date, with approximately US\$1.33 million (or 38 % of cumulative expenditure : up from 34 % last quarter) of that amount being disbursed to the sub-grantees.

Table 1
Expenditure Report by Activity Budget Categories

<i>Activity Description</i>	<i>CLIN No.</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Expenditure Prior Periods</i>	<i>Expenditure This Period</i>	<i>To Date Contract Expenditure</i>	<i>Remaining Budget</i>
Project Management	001	\$1,347,926	\$738,229	\$75,447	\$813,676	\$534,250
Operations Research	002	\$473,648	\$190,214	\$32,023	\$222,237	\$251,411
Adolescent Programs	003	\$1,771,697	\$787,039	\$142,582	\$929,621	\$842,076
Assisting MEYC	004	\$202,661	\$86,454	\$25,152	\$111,606	\$91,055
Award Fee Pool	005	\$252,631	\$124,503	\$0	\$124,503	\$128,128
Sub-Grants	006	\$2,600,000	\$1,006,882	\$321,572	\$1,328,454	\$1,271,546
TOTALS		\$6,648,563	\$2,933,321	\$596,776	\$3,530,097	\$3,118,466

Obligations to Contract

Obligations by USAID to the Contract to date amount to US\$4,294,830. These obligations are distributed and compared to expenditure as follows:

<i>CLIN # & Description</i>	<i>Contract Amount</i>	<i>Obligated To Date</i>	<i>Expenditure To Date</i>	<i>Unexpended Obligation</i>
CLINs 1-4: Institutional Contract	\$3,795,932	\$2,475,250	\$2,077,140	\$398,110
CLIN 5: Award Fee Pool	\$252,631	\$134,580	\$124,503	\$10,077
CLIN 6: NGO Sub-Grants	\$2,600,000	\$1,685,000	\$1,328,454	\$356,546
TOTALS	\$6,648,563	\$4,294,830	\$3,530,097	\$764,733

**SUMMARY OF QUARTERLY REPORTS
UAP SUB-GRANTEES
September to November 1998**

General

By the end of November, 1998, the UAP had 14 financed Sub-Grants for the regular and special populations, and had awarded funding for 4 Operations Research activities. During this quarter, the Batch II sub-grantees were all extended financing for a second year of implementation, and one additional operations research activity was awarded to Hope Enterprises. Batch I sub-grantees have now completed 18 months of their two year program, Batch II have completed 15 months, and Batch III, six months of their first year.

Recruitment Progress: Regular and Special Populations Grants

As of November 30, 1998, the 14 regular and special population sub-grantees had registered a combined 99% of their targeted recruitment. The targets for Batches I and II sub-grantees are for two years, and for Batch III for the first year only. Reports from the sub-grantees show that at November 30, 1998, a total of 11,768 adolescents had been registered at the 14 NGOs. Of this amount, 5,747 have been registered in Batch I sub-grantees (102% of the target), 5,408 in Batch II sub-grantees (97% of the target), and 485 in the Batch III sub-grantees (97% of target). The table below summarizes recruitment progress attained to November 30, 1998 by the sub-grantees.

Comparison of Sub-Grantee Recruitment Targets and Accomplishments

Sub-Grantee	Recruitment Target	Accomplishment Nov. 30, 1998	Percent Accomplished
<u>Batch I (18/24 months implementation)</u>			
FamPlan Jamaica	725	730	101%
Jamaica Red Cross	948	1,226	129%
Women's Centre of Jamaica	1,812	2,002	110%
Kingston Restoration Company	707	505	71%
YWCA of Jamaica	745	590	79%
Rural Family Support Organization	810	822	101%
BATCH I TOTALS	5,747	5,875	102%
<u>Batch II (15/24 months implementation)</u>			
Kingston YMCA	546	446	82%
Western Society/Upliftment of Children	780	815	104%
St. Patrick's Foundation	1,133	1,395	123%
Youth Opportunities Unlimited	911	895	98%
Mel Nathan Institute	1,070	832	78%
Ashe Caribbean Performing Arts Fdn.	1,143	1025	90%
BATCH II TOTALS	5,583	5,408	97%
<u>Batch III (6/12 months implementation)</u>			
Jamaica Association for the Deaf	200	185	93%
Sam Sharpe Teachers' College	300	300	100%
BATCH III TOTALS	500	485	97%
Project Totals	11,830	11,768	99%

A-

The sub-grantees are to be commended for the efforts they have displayed in improving the recruitment levels. This is especially so with Batch I sub-grantees which had, in year 1, attained lower accomplishment percentages than their Batch II counterparts. None of the 14 sub-grantees currently show lower than 70% recruitment accomplishment.

The total number of adolescents registered up to November 30, 1998 is 107% of the UAP target of 11,000 over the life of project (up from 75% last quarter). Of the regular at-risk adolescents project target of 9,300, the 14 sub-grantees have so far registered 10,179 (109% - up from 79% last quarter). Of the 1,700 target for the special populations, 1,589 adolescents (93%)(up from 51%, or 870 previous quarter) have been registered. Below is a comparison of the recruitment accomplishments compared to sub-grantees' targets and the UAP targets, broken out by regular and special populations.

	<u>Sub-Grantees' Targets</u>		<u>UAP Overall Targets</u>	
	Regular	Spec. Pop.	Regular	Spec. Pop.
Target	10,126	1,704	9,300	1,700
Nov 30 Achievement	10,179	1,589	10,179	1,589
Percent Achieved	101%	93%	109%	93%

Financial Disbursements

Financial disbursements to the Sub-Grantees up to the end of November 1998 have amounted to approximately US\$1.33 million, which represents 37.6% of the total expenditure to date by Development Associates, and increase from 34.3% in the last quarter.

Compared to the amounts obligated to date by USAID for the sub-grants (US\$1.685 million), disbursements (US\$1.33 million) represent approximately 79% of obligations, increased from 60% last quarter. Disbursements to the sub-grantees amount to 90.4% of advances received by DA from USAID for sub-grants. The unexpended obligation by USAID of US\$355,000 may be sufficient only for about 3 months' disbursement needs, that is up to March 31, 1999.

Sub-Grant Summary Matrices

The program reports of the sub-grantees for the September to November 1998 period have been summarized in matrices under the following categories:

- i. Project Implementation & Training
- ii. Procurement & Acquisitions
- iii. Problems
- iv. Other Related Activities, and
- v. Locations of Programs

**MATRIX SUMMARIES
OF
UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT
SUB-GRANTEES' QUARTERLY REPORTS**

for the quarter
September to November 1998

and

PUBLICITY EXCERPTS

January 21, 1999

Sub-Grantee -->	FamPlan Jamaica	Jamaica Red Cross
1. Project Implementation & Training	<p>A mentoring program is being established. Skills training in sewing will start in the next quarter, now that FAMPLAN has acquired the space to conduct these classes. Application of the self-esteem questionnaire showed some improvement in second year participants' views of themselves. One out-of-school student was placed at Exchange All Age School, and is now functioning at Grade 7. Three parent education workshops held this period, attended by over 700 parents in all.</p>	<p>The number of adolescents recruited and served has increased tremendously over the last year, as a result of the in-school recruitment strategy. JRC has been successful in placing some completers in technical high schools (Jose Marti, and StATHS). Some students are now awaiting responses to their applications to HEART/NTA. One student has gone on to apprentice with a beekeeper. Yallahs center was opened this period, in place of St. James. All 4 UAP components covered there, including a bee-keeping program, which is at all centers except Clarendon which is substituting Plumbing. An Open Day was held in Clarendon to show off the adolescents' handiwork to parents and the community.</p>
2. Procurement & Acquisitions	None reported.	None reported.
3. Problems	<p>Lack of cooperation from some parents of in-school adolescents has delayed the MICO assessments. Overcrowded classrooms also impede the classes at both Exchange All Age and St. Ann's Bay Primary schools. The out-of-school adolescents typically are in-disciplined.</p>	None reported.
4. Other Related Activities	<p>FamPlan is collaborating with RADA and other organizations to set up income-earning activities for parents in the squatter communities.</p>	<p>RADA is assisting with bee-keeping instruction at the 3 centers. Advisory Council has been supplemented by participation from the Peer Counseling Association and the St. Catherine's Constabulary.</p>
5. Program Locations	<p>St. Ann's Bay, Exchange, Seaside/Musgrave, Edgecombe, Windsor, and Annotto Bay.</p>	<p>Central Village (St. Catherine); Yallahs (St. Thomas), May Pen (Clarendon), and Kingston.</p>

Sub-Grantee --->	Women's Centre of Jamaica	Kingston Restoration Company
1. Project Implementation & Training	Of 2002 adolescents registered to date, only 76 have been out-of-school, but 51 of these have been returned to school. They continue to attend the after school activities. The target of 200 for the period was exceeded with 511 new participants were registered this quarter. St. Ann's Bay, Mandeville and Montego Bay led the way with over 100 new students each. Classes continued in all 4 UAP areas, but with special emphasis on LRE and PFD. Drama, poetry, music and role playing are used and interwoven with other program areas, especially LRE.	The program for out-of-school youth was launched in September, with 45 registered to date. Twenty of these have been placed in high school (15) and in vocational training (5). The other 25 attend remedial classes at the Teen Center, and are being tested for literacy and numeracy. A Computer/Program Officer has been hired. Eight students have been placed in a mentoring relationship to date. KRC completed and commissioned three new classrooms at the Teen Center. Drama group continued public performances.
2. Procurement & Acquisitions	None reported.	None reported.
3. Problems	Financial difficulties continue to prevent some participants from regular attendance. Also behavioral problems occasionally erupt.	Out of school youth show behavioral problems and irregular attendance. KRC has modified the curriculum to provide more flexible implementation, and greater student involvement.
4. Other Related Activities	None reported.	Students and parents participated actively in the Clean up day at the Teen Center. The Secondary School Unit of the Ministry of Education has donated 150 books to the Teen Center, and 21 counselors from the Jamaica Theological School have volunteered this quarter. Currently 12 adolescents meet regularly with the counselors.
7. Program Locations	Port Antonio, Mandeville, St. Ann's Bay, Montego Bay and Savanna-la-Mar	Highholborn Street, and Jonestown in Kingston.

Sub-Grantee --->	YWCA National Council	Rural Family Support Org.
1. Project Implementation & Training	During this quarter the YWCA placed an additional 3 students back into the school system. YWCA continues to appreciate the contribution from stalwart volunteers: Dr. Heloise Lewis, and the Director of the Kingston School of Nursing, in particular. Classes in upholstery and leather-craft have been started in Kingston and Spanish Town in place of gardening. Youth clubs have been established in Kingston as a mechanism for personal development, focusing on conflict resolution, human resource development and leadership.	Five new schools have been added to the in-school program, bringing the total schools visited to nine. Students at these schools are served with 2 hours of PFD per week. More students, especially males, than the out-of-school program could accommodate applied for admission. Thirty were selected, based on assessed needs for remedial education and low socio-economic status. RFSO made efforts to obtain places for the others at the Red Cross program, JAMAL, and in the All Age and Comprehensive schools. 15 special population female adolescents fall into the "Special populations" category - teenage mothers, slow learners and delinquency. Miming, role-play and skits used to assist learning especially in Guidance sessions. In-school recruitment target of 450 was exceeded with 463 students registered.
2. Procurement & Acquisitions	None reported.	None reported.
3. Problems	Praedial larceny has affected the development of the gardening program, leading to it cancellation at 2 sites. Spanish Town has reported that many students may have vision problems. Foundation for International Self-Help (FISH) has been asked to assist with testing. The need for a Guidance Counselor to serve the programs grows more intense.	Physical space limitations at the Male Adolescent program make it difficult to enforce discipline. Students have been taken once weekly to the Sports Complex to relieve the pressure. In-school program also suffers from high noise levels, especially in primary schools. Outdoor lessons are provided where possible. Some principals did not approve of the Reproductive Health questionnaire being administered.
4. Other Related Activities	YDP has received the gift of all royalties from a song from Mrs. Enid Johnson. The Education Officer for Spanish Town has been volunteering two hours twice per week to teach literacy at the Spanish Town branch.	UAP counselors have been working with the PTAs at eh schools, and have also addressed parents during Parents' Week in November.
7. Program Locations	Kingston, Spanish Town (including Watson Grove), and Montego Bay.	5 All-Age, and 4 primary schools in Clarendon; and Male Adolescent Program, and Teenage Mothers' Program in May Pen.

Sub-Grantee --->	Kingston YMCA	Western Society for the Upliftment of Children
1. Project Implementation & Training	<p>YMCA now has 312 students on register and has accomplished an average attendance at the two centers of 84%. Tracer study was completed this quarter on 22 completers. Four parenting workshops were completed. Students at Amy Bailey center are being prepared for the HEART/NTA entry level test in January 1999. Computers purchased in this period will now permit the start of computer training in 1999. Workshops have been held in the following areas, and addressed by guest presenters: AIDS, personal development, violence against women. YMCA has sought assistance from other agencies to provide a daily lunch to the participants. More sponsorship is needed to support this activity. Efforts are underway to start the third center at Caymanas Bay in January. A temporary site has been selected and is being prepared for use until the permanent YMCA Camp Hamilton site is renovated.</p>	<p>WSUC and Children First have exceeded recruitment projections for both regular and special populations adolescents: 211 special populations youth were recruited versus the 163 target, and 490 regular against the 450 target. Classes continued in PFD at the schools for the in-school adolescents. Two new schools were added in Spanish Town. For the out of school special populations, classes in conflict resolution had to be started earlier than planned in order to deal with the behavioral problems this group presented. The out of school groups were tested at both WSUC and CF for literacy, and appropriately placed in their stage-learning groups. WSUC continued pre-vocational training in sewing and craft, and had an Open Day in October to show and sell the products. CF has started pre-vocational training in photography with the assistance of a volunteer who operates the Photo Shop in Spanish Town. Additional support is being sought to finance training in small appliance repair, and barbering.</p>
2. Procurement & Acquisitions	<p>Computer equipment for the establishment of a computer center at Hope Road.</p>	<p>None reported.</p>
3. Problems	<p>Behavioral problems continue as expected. The YMCA must be continually vigilant as boys as bringing a variety of weapons to the classes to "defend" themselves. Where available, parents and guardians are invited to come in to discuss the required behavior change, but it is evident that the improper attitudes are learnt not only from their environment but from the parents and guardians themselves.</p>	<p>The new groups of special populations youth presented several behavioral problems: inattention, loud, restlessness, and frequent fighting. Space continues to be a problem at both locations, limiting their ability to more fully service the needs of the communities.</p>
4. Other Related Activities	<p>There is also a greater need for books and materials than the Grant budget can fulfil. Other sources, such as Food for the Poor, have been tapped, and a donation of books and 4 sewing machines received.</p>	<p>WSUC held a Church Service and Celebrity Walk-a-thon to mark their first anniversary. Both were well supported by the adolescents, parents and community. CF has applied to UNICEF and United Way for grants.</p>
7. Program Locations	<p>YMCA (Hope Road), and Amy Bailey Center at Rosedale.</p>	<p>Montego Bay (WSUC), and Spanish Town(CF).</p>

Sub-Grantee --->	St. Patrick's Foundation	Youth Opportunities Unlimited
1. Project Implementation & Training	SPF added 395 new participants this quarter, bringing the total recruited to 1,395 to date. Of the new recruits, 316 are out of school, and 77 of these when tested were found to be at primer level and below. Only 17 of the new participants were functioning at their age-grade level or better. Three new schools have been added. Four new staff hired, including a Guidance Counselor. SPF is adding peer teaching to the reading program. One parenting session, attended by 42 parents, was held to address the topic of Discipline in Adolescents. SPF teachers have attended the Mico training in the use of the Diagnostic Reading Instrument.	YOU has registered 434 of their 450 Year 2 target this quarter. With 4 new ones added, the program now operates in 11 schools in Kingston and now Portmore. Fifty new "mentees were recruited from the new participants, and so far 7 have been matched with mentors. The substance abuse program run by Addiction Alert over a 4 week period was attended by 44 adolescents. A parenting workshop, attended by 56 parents, focused on "Parent/Adolescents conflicts" and yielded the recommendation that a joint parent-adolescent session be held soon. The peer counseling program was inaugurated this quarter at Excelsior HS. The structured homework programs at St. Hugh's and Merl Grove continued, with 103 new participants. One adolescent seminar on "Getting ahead in School was held, with 37 youth in attendance.
2. Procurement & Acquisitions	None.	None Reported.
3. Problems	The adolescents who tested at below primer level are being referred for testing for physiological and learning deficiencies. Attendance and punctuality are disappointing.	YOU has found it difficult to attract more mentors, especially males, who are sorely needed. Material support for many mentees is also a dire need. YOU will undertake a recruitment drive for mentors in 1999, and through the Friends of YOU group in Florida provide for some material and school fees support for needy adolescents.
4. Other Related Activities	SPF staff also attended a 2 day Ministry of Education conference on Special Education. Staff and students also participated in a one day presentation on conflict resolution by PALS.	Expansion of the program to three other schools in the Portmore area is being supported by the Canada Fund. PACT and KRC are collaborating with YOU to develop a training program for community leaders in Jonestown.
7. Program Locations	Kingston (Olympic Gardens)	11 schools in Kingston and Portmore..

Sub-Grantee --->	Mel Nathan Institute	Ashe Caribbean
1. Project Implementation & Training	MNI has recruited 272 new adolescents this quarter, which added to the 560 continuing from year 1 brings the total being served in Year 2 to 832. Hannah Town and Chetolah Park adolescents have been put into interest skill groups: catering, computer education, drama, electrical installation, garment construction and woodwork. The Seafield and Carron Hall programs in St. Mary continued with renewed vigor, focusing mainly on PFD and LRE activities. At the Edith Dalton James Community College 70 new special population adolescents are registered, and have been exposed to a 4 week Youth Development Training program which included life skills items such as substance abuse, STDs, and building relationships. One parenting workshop was held at Carron Hall.	Ashe recruited 110 new members to the UAP activities this quarter. These were tested for self-esteem, mathematics and English. Students were then appropriately placed in groups. A seminar for parents was held early in the quarter to introduce them to Ashe. A sports program initiated during the summer has been continued with twice weekly coaching sessions in football and basketball. Two seminars held on Conflict Resolution and AIDS/STDs.
2. Procurement & Acquisitions	None reported.	None reported.
3. Problems	Pretoria Road implementation has been affected by the change in shift system for the adolescents, who are now required to attend school in the afternoon, at the same time that the UAP activities are delivered. Community violence resulting in 4 murders has disrupted the program in Hannah Town.	Punctuality and hygiene are the main problems with the youth. The lack of transportation has also affected attendance.
4. Other Related Activities	A library donated to the Mel Nathan Preparatory School, will be made available for use by all the children in the Hannah Town community.	None reported.
7. Program Locations	6 Kingston inner-city communities, and Carron Hall/Seafield in St. Mary	Kingston: 3 Kingston inner-city locations, plus Portmore.

Sub-Grantee --->	Jamaica Assoc. for the Deaf	Sam Sharpe Teachers' College
1. Project Implementation & Training	In its first full quarter of activity, the JAD recruited 185 of the targeted 200 adolescents to the Youth Theater Workshop. There is a 55%/45% female/male ratio. All students were exposed to four tests: Receptive Written English Language, Expressive Written English Language, Mathematics and the Rosenberg Self-Esteem. All students tested at either of Grades I, II, and III in the JAMAL scales for Receptive Written English and Mathematics, with the majority (54% and 78% respectively) in Grade II. Each participant was exposed this quarter to an average of 32 hours of training in dance and drama, and 39 hours in literacy and numeracy. Staff, including the performing arts instructors have been exposed to a range of training as well, including sign language and deaf culture.	SSTC increased its number recruited beyond the 300 target to 420, but many of these exceed the age limit of 18 years old. These continue to benefit from project activities as the need exists. Those over the age range include adults who have accompanied their children, and wards. LRE and skills courses such as cookery, craft and sewing are delivered to these. For the special population adolescents, LRE and PFD activities have been the main focus. The JAMAL series are used to place and educate the participants. The Mico Diagnostic Reading Test will be applied in the next quarter. SSTC makes heavy use of student teachers from the college to implement the program, and there has been a spillover effect in the community of Granville, since people now see the teachers as contributing to the community. Music, drama, elocution and computer studies also form a significant part of the program.
2. Procurement & Acquisitions	None.	None reported.
3. Problems	The project is suffering from a lack of meaningful contact with parents. Presentations at the Deaf Schools' PTA meetings have not drawn the expected response. School staff have also not supported the project with promised enthusiasm.	None reported.
4. Other Related Activities	Funds are being solicited from other organizations such as JSIF, UNICEF, Netherlands Embassy, and Grace Kennedy Foundation to support the non-salary costs of the program. Firm responses are expected in 1999. Donations have been received from 3 local businesses US Peace Corps have been asked to provide a volunteer in 1999 who could fill the role of Project Coordinator. Transportation is being provided free for one year to the Papine based students by Metropolitan Transport Holdings.	None reported.
7. Program Locations	Kingston.	Montego Bay.

Sub-Grantee --->	Ashe Operations Research	WCJF Operations Research
1. Project Implementation & Training	Data from 5 questionnaires were obtained from the 80 members of the experimental group. These participants are now actively engaged in the experiment, including performing arts, life skills seminars, homework assistance.	The project got a late start since the recruitment of qualified staff could not be completed because of the low salary levels offered. With an increase in the offer, two persons were short-listed for interviews and selection in December. It is expected that the program will move into full swing in January 1999. Visits have been made to the experimental and control sites to orient the staff at those locations, and the curriculum and learning approaches have been completed by the Consultant.
2. Procurement & Acquisitions	None	None reported.
3. Problems	Conflicting parents' schedules presented some difficulties in the completion of the data collected on the 80 participants. Ashe also experienced difficulty obtaining the academic records from the teachers and schools. It is hoped that an increase in the incentive to schools will resolve this problem.	Salary levels for the counselor staff to be hired had to be increased in order to attract the level of staff required.
4. Other Related Activities	None reported.	None reported.
7. Program Locations	Kingston.	Montego Bay and Savanna-la-mar.

Sub-Grantee --->	LAR&D Enterprises OR	Hope Enterprises OR
1. Project Implementation & Training	The 60 participants in this project have been selected, 30 from each location. The male\female breakdown at the two locations are 20/10 in Spanish Town (experimental group) , and 27/3 in Montego Bay (control). The JAMAL and Mico tests to determine academic achievement were applied, and the scores were distributed 36 at Level I, 13 at level II and 11 at level III. Of the 13 females in the project, 10 are at level I. This research group comprises youth from fairly diverse living conditions, backgrounds and circumstances, and the diversity is reflected in their attitudes, temperament and motivation. It is interesting and ironic to note the diligence the groups demonstrate to classroom work, compared to activity-oriented teaching.	This project started in October, in collaboration with Fam Plan Jamaica. The study will determine the major personal, familial and environmental factors that impact adolescents' willingness and ability to stay ion school. A draft questionnaire, which will be field tested before finalization has been developed to assess several areas such as school performance, personal and social skills, family and community support, risk behaviors etc. The pre-test of the questionnaire will be conducted in St. Ann's Bay and Exchange.
2. Procurement & Acquisitions	None	None
3. Problems	Frequent fights have occurred, not unsurprisingly, and the use of foul language is a major problem. Attendance is another area for special attention. Attention span of the students, especially those who live on their own is very short. Physical facilities at both locations are not as adequate as needed.	None
4. Other Related Activities	Participants have helped to establish rules for regulating behavior, which are very stringent.	None
7. Program Locations	Spanish Town and Montego Bay	St. Ann's Bay and Exchange, in St. Ann.

Street kids to benefit from celebrity walk-a-thon

WESTERN BUREAU -

STREET CHILDREN in Montego Bay are to benefit from a two-hour celebrity walk-a-thon today.

International cricket umpire Steve Bucknor will join prominent city personalities, including Mayor of Montego Bay, Hugh Solomon; president of the Chamber of Commerce Josef Forstmayr, and former national footballer Paul "Tegat" Davis, on a two-pronged walk starting from the Sangster International Airport in one direction, and the Westgate Plaza in the opposite direction.

The walk will culminate at the Amphitheatre behind the St. James Parish Library.

The "Million dollar celebrity

walk-a-thon" is part of the week-long celebrations to mark the first anniversary of the Western Society for the Upliftment of Children (WSUC), which is dedicated to caring for disadvantaged and street children. So far, the Society has rescued more than 250 children, from 0 to 18 years of age, off the streets and placed them in schools. Some, at the age of 14, had never had any type of schooling, according to WSUC executive director, Glenda Drummond.

Among activities undertaken was a church service held at the Glendevon Seventh Day Adventist Church last Saturday, and an Open Day display at the SDA Church Hall in Montego Bay.

September 30, 1997 marked the

official launch of the WSUC as a non-governmental organisation. However, it began six and-a-half years ago when the UK-based Save the Children Fund (SCF) established a project for street/working children in Montego Bay, at a time when a growing number of youngsters were either dropping out of school to work, or had lost families and had to live on the streets.

Over the six years, the SCF programme evolved into a kind of home for the children they rescued, sometimes providing a physical sanctuary, as well as emotional support.

It was given over to local control last year and its current mandate is to become a "pioneer in working with marginalised youth".



Contributed
 Sarah Newland-Martin, (2nd left), General Secretary of the Kingston YMCA, gives Professor Rene Simoes (2nd right), Technical Director of Jamaica's National Football team, an update on the YMCA's rebuilding project. Sharing in the occasion are Dr. Joyce Robinson, Training Co-ordinator, Development Associates Ltd., and Francis Valva, Chief of Party of the "Uplifting Adolescence Project". Professor Simoes visited the YMCA's headquarters recently, as a part of the YMCA's Mentorship Programme. ■

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USAID gives ministry computer equipment

THE Ministry of Local government, Youth and Community Development was yesterday presented with US\$63,000 worth of computer equipment by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The computer equipment will be used in the Uplifting Adolescents Project (UAP), targeting 11,000 young people from ages 10 to 14 years. The project's aim is to support the work of non-governmental organisations in implementing programmes to promote smaller better-educated families, focusing on the poor.

According to Danny Gordon, project specialist with USAID, 8,223 children have been reached and the project which started in 1996 is on target for completion in December 2000.

Referring to the special age group as the most underserved, Gordon said remedial education, personal and family development, reproductive health and technical and vocational training will be delivered under the programme.

Development Associates Incorporated, based in Virginia, United States of America, is the implementing agent for the project and will provide overall guidance and administrative management for performance based sub-grants with established and sustainable NGOs. The company will also provide short-term technical areas of the project, management analysis and development of the NGOs.

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Continued

Colin Campbell, Minister of State in the Ministry of Local Government, Youth & Community Development (centre), thanks Dr. Alexander Dickie, acting mission director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), following the presentation of US\$75,000 worth of equipment to the Ministry.

Youth Ministry gets equipment from USAID

THE UNITED States Agency for International Development (USAID) yesterday presented equipment valued at US\$75,000 to the Youth Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Youth and Community Development.

The equipment, including computers with software and peripherals, fax and photocopiers, machines and audio-visual aids were provided for under the USAID-funded Uplifting Adolescents Project (UAP) - a joint project of the Governments of Jamaica and the United States of America. Presenting the equip-

ment was Dr. Alexander Dickie, acting mission director of the USAID. He said that USAID saw the need for a vehicle which could be used in tandem with the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to bring tangible benefits to a most critical target group - the vulnerable and at-risk youth. He said that "the UAP is a significant project that will go a long way to preparing children for life, opening a whole new windows of opportunities for them in the world of work and life in general".

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Youth division gets equipment from USAID

EQUIPMENT VALUED at approximately \$2 million has been given to the Youth Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Youth and Community Development by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The items include six personal and two laptop computers, six printers, a fax machine, a public address system, a paper trimmer and a copying machine. They will be used to enhance the activities of the Uplifting Adolescents Project (UAP), a joint programme of Jamaica and the United States.

The handing over took place on Tuesday at the Ministry's Hagley Park Road offices.

The objective of the UAP is to promote smaller, better educated families, with special emphasis on the poor. The project strategy is to support the work of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in implementing projects targeted at 10-14-year-old at-risk youth.

State Minister Colin Campbell accepted the equipment on behalf of the Ministry.

He said the equipment would be used to enhance the Ministry's capacity to focus on policy development and assist in institutional strengthening and building.

"Very soon, we will be able to really set up a kind of data base here, so that almost every Jamaican youth can call and get information on projects," he added.

Pointing out that Youth and Community Month was currently being celebrated, Mr. Campbell said the presentation was timely as it was "perhaps one of the high points of the Month".

Dr. Alex Dickie, acting mission director of USAID, who made the presentation, said the UAP was an important initiative which "will go a long way in preparing the youth, while opening new windows and opportuni-

ties within the world of work in Jamaica."

We feel sure that the activities you are engaged in will bring tangible benefits to a most critical target group - the vulnerable and at-risk youth," he said.

Danny Gordon, project spe-

cialist of the USAID in Jamaica, gave an overview of the UAP. He said to date, the programme has assisted over 8,000 young people out of the 11,000 who were targeted. The project was started in 1996 and is envisaged to end in the year 2000.

THE GLEANER

Monday, November 16, 1998

Children First gets National Press Award

THE two-year-old Children First programme, a Non-Governmental Organisation aimed at rehabilitating street children and reuniting them with their families, is this year's recipient of the National Press Award.

Children First founder, actress Claudette Richardson-Pious, accompanied by one of her wards, Zoë Barnett, accepted the award at yesterday's Prayer Breakfast at the Terra Nova hotel staged by the Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ), to launch National Journalism Week.

A citation accompanying the award hailed Children First for its outstanding contribution to community service.

With 613 children now in the programme, Children First - working with organisations such as HEART, Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), and Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) - focuses on issues such as school assistance, career guidance, environmental awareness, youth advancement and children rights education. The organisation helps to get children off the streets and provides them with a skill that would hopefully better their lives. So far, three members of the programme have been accepted to tertiary institutions in the United States.

"I am overwhelmed with this award," said Richardson-Pious, "the recognition given by the press only serves to encourage and motive me to continue with what I consider important work in Jamaica."

Illustrating the importance of nurturing the young, Richardson-Pious allowed young Barnett to give the vote of thanks to the members of the PAJ.

A well-spoken, spirited Barnett thanked the press for the recognition and acknowledged the honour she felt at being able to work with and serve her community. She ended with a heart-felt "Big up, Press Association!"

It was perhaps fitting that Rev Father Gregory Ramkissoon of the Mustard Seed Community urged the members of the press in an inspiring and moving sermon to undertake 'action journalism'. Hailing the media as the new evangelising power, he challenged journalists not to be merely mirrors of the society but to take responsibility in the developmental process of Jamaica.

Highlighting the many ills in the society and the breakdown of key institutions such as the family, the church and the government, Ramkissoon warned the media that the power they have in their hands "can carry us or bury us". He also warned against slipping into comfortable mediocrity, and urged journalists to respond to the fundamental issues facing Jamaica, and the region. Issues such as poverty, starvation and social injustice.

Desmond Allen, president of the PAJ, in his opening remarks, also urged members of the press to introspection and their role as journalists in Jamaica. Reminding them of the Association's



WELL DONE: Claudette Richardson-Pious (2nd right), founder of Children First, accepts this year's National Press Award from Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) executive member, Donna Ortega, while PAJ president, Desmond Allen, and Zoë Barnett from Children First, look on. Occasion was yesterday's prayer breakfast held at the Terra Nova Hotel by the PAJ to launch National Journalism Week. Children First, a two-year-old Non-Governmental Organisation, is aimed at rehabilitating street children and reuniting them with their families. (Photo: Joseph Wellington)

code of ethics that dictates fairness, accuracy and balance, he stressed the need for professionalism at all times. Noting the recent stand-off between the press and Trinidad and Tobago prime minister, Basdeo Panday, Allen stated that the media in Jamaica were afforded the maximum freedom and it is a freedom that should not be taken lightly.

Together with Helene Coley-Nicholson, master of ceremonies of the event, the two called for a stance of unity and solidarity for the members of the media in Trinidad and Tobago.

The *Observer's* own associate editor, Vernon Davidson, accompanied by Patricia Roxborough on the piano, was also inspiring in his own right,

as he delivered a hauntingly beautiful rendition of God Bless The Child which earned him an encore. He then treated the full house of journalists, media personalities, friends and well wishers, to a lovely version of Babyface's **Change The World**.

Journalism week continues Wednesday with the Veteran's Luncheon at Wray and Nephew, and climaxes on Saturday night with the National Journalism Awards Banquet to honour outstanding work during the past year. The banquet is scheduled for Le Meridien Jamaica Pegasus Hotel and the guest speaker will be chairman of the Gleaner Company Ltd, Oliver Clarke.

ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS IN JAMAICA *10th Anniversary*



Claudette Pious (left) leads a parenting workshop for AWOJA. ■